



TESTIMONY on HB 3069
JOINT COMMITTEE ON ADDICTION AND COMMUNITY SAFETY RESPONSE
MAY 2, 2025

Co-Chairs Prozanski and Kropf, Co-Vice Chair Mannix, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Mae Lee Browning, Legislative Director of the Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association. OCDLA is neutral on HB 3069.

OCDLA's 1,200 members statewide include public defense providers, private bar attorneys, investigators, experts, and law students. Our attorneys represent Oregon's children and parents in juvenile dependency proceedings, youth in juvenile delinquency proceedings, adults in criminal proceedings at the trial and appellate level, as well as civil commitment proceedings throughout the state of Oregon. Our mission is championing justice, promoting individual rights, and supporting the legal defense community through education and advocacy.

OCDLA is generally appreciative of the direction of the -1 and -2 amendments to HB 3069; they are a good step in the right direction. We appreciate Chair Kropf for convening a discussion on HB 3069 to hear our concerns and feedback. The workgroup will convene again on May 6 and we will have detailed feedback for the workgroup. OCDLA's feedback for the workgroup will include details on how to strengthen the accountability provisions in the -1 and -2 amendments.

OCDLA appreciates the accountability provisions in the -1 and -2 amendments, specifically the 15% holdback for some grants and that some grants will be 75% performance-based. This will help ensure that state dollars are being spent effectively and that program goals are being met.

OCDLA is concerned about the changes in makeup of the Commission. Since currently, a defense attorney serves on the CJC, we appreciate the dedicated seat for a defense attorney in the -1. We also appreciate the dedicated seat for a researcher. However, the -1 does not include dedicated seats for people with lived experience with the criminal legal system. With the multiple grant review committees that exist currently, there are people who lived experience and with community provider experience. Since those grant review committees are going away under HB 3069, we need to ensure that the CJC has dedicated seats for people with lived experience so we do not lose that experience.

Mae Lee Browning
Legislative Director
Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association